

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INT-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

FRB-01 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-15 TRSE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06

SP-02 CIEP-02 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 NSC-05 SS-15

STR-04 CEA-01 L-03 H-02 DODE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /100 W

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R 211335Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4022

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY MASERU

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

UNCLAS JOHANNESBURG 1015

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB, SF

SUBJECT: CHAMBER OF MINES AND MINE WORKERS UNION REACH PARTIAL
COMPROMISE AGREEMENT IN FIVE-DAY-WEEK DISPUTE

REF: JOHANNESBURG'S 969

1. FOLLOWING TEN DAYS OF INFORMAL TALKS IN WHICH MINES MINISTER
KOORNHOF PLAYED IMPORTANT ROLE, CHAMUAR OF MINES AND MINE
WORKERS UNION (MWU) ANNOUNCED PARTIAL COMPROMISE AGREEMENT IN FIVE-
DAY-WEEK DISPUTE JULY 16 WITH CHAMBER AGREEING TO INTRODUCE FIVE-
DAY WEEK IN GOLD-MINING INDUSTRY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE AND WITH MWU
AGREEING TO GO ALONG WITH LIMITED NUMBER OF PRODUCTIVITY-RELATED
PRO-BLACK CHANGES IN WORK RULES. CHAMBER UNDERTOOK NOT TO REDUCE
NUMBER OF WHITE JOBS AND MWU UNDERTOOK NOT TO PRESS FOR IN-
CREASES. COST OF AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF PROBABLE LOST PRODUCTION IN
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SEVEN-DAY-WEEK 24 HOUR-PER-DAY INDUSTRY COMBINED WITH STEPPED-UP

OVERTIME WAGE PAYMENTS EXPECTED TO BE CONSIDERABLE.

2. CHAMBER STILL AT ODDS WITH MWU ABOUT FIVE-DAY WEEK FOR COAL MINING INDUSTRY AND WITH COUNCIL OF MINING UNIONS WHICH RECENTLY DECLARED ITS OWN FIVE-DAY DISPUTE.

3. COMMENT: WHILE "BREAKTHROUGH" WITH MWU HAS CLEARLY SET STAGE FOR SIMILAR PARTIAL COMPROMISE AGREEMENTS WITH OTHER WHITE UNIONS THERE IS SERIOUS QUESTION ABOUT EXTENT TO WHICH SUCH AGREEMENTS MADE NOW TO AVOID GENERAL STRIKE CONSTITUTE MUCH MORE THAN POLITICALLY AND ECONOMICALLY EXPEDIENT DETERMINATION TO PUT OFF FOR AS LONG AS POSSIBLE NEED TO COME TO GRIPS IN RESPONSIBLE MANNER WITH REAL ISSUE IN MINES WHICH IS BLACK MAJORITY JOB ADVANCEMENT AT WHITE MINORITY EXPENSE.

4. AIRGRAM FOLLOWS. GUTHRIE

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